

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

Parish including Birchley Heath, Ansley Common  
Ansley Village, Church End

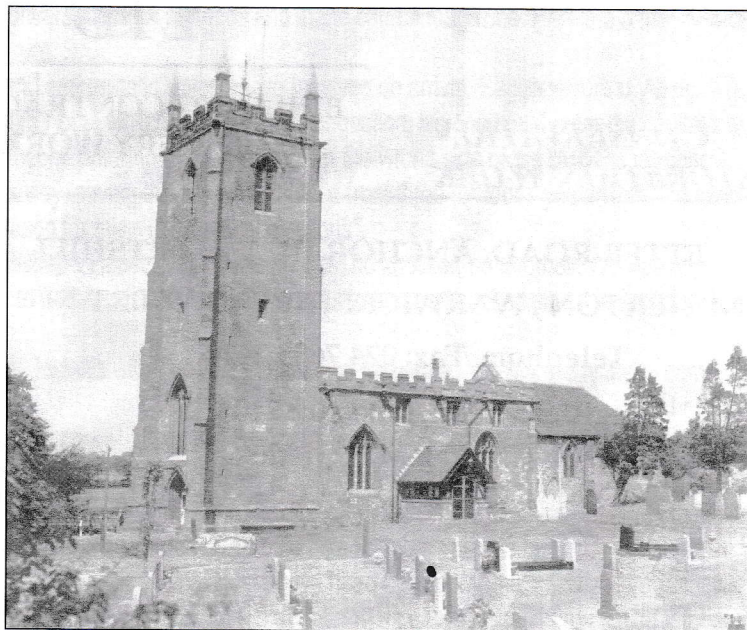
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## Home from Nigeria

I am still not quite sure how I ended up going to Nigeria.

Perhaps it was mentioning that St. Laurence's and St. John's might be interested in building a parish partnership with a church in Kaduna Diocese. If so this became one of the most creative brief conversations I have had. For out of this initial contact came the possibility of travelling with Bishop Christopher to Kaduna, Nigeria. Over the next few weeks and months you will hear me speak of Nigeria in conversations, in sermons and in the church magazine. Here are a few memories I will always treasure.

The ready and enthusiastic welcome we received on arrival. Baggage sorted. All done for us.

The drive from Abuja to Kaduna. Massive congestion. No one could enter the capital city, Abuja and to prevent anyone entering by travelling down the wrong side of the road the number of lanes on the dual carriageway leaving the city was reduced from three (or four if you include the sandy verge) to one. The reason for this. "It's the local elections".

Arriving at Bishop's House. There was no lock, no knocker, no doorbell. We walked straight in to the sitting room to find Archbishop Josiah barefoot in an open necked shirt. He was clearly delighted at our arrival.

The words of Josiah's wife Comfort. "Thank you for coming. So many say they'll come, but they never do."

The subsequent conversation. Archbishop Josiah's laughter, wisdom and courage. I knew in a way I have rarely felt before that I was in the presence of a man of God.

The visit to six churches in the afternoon. The notice in one church that warned against the dangers posed by terrorism. The church that would take 20 more years to build. They have been building for eight years and the walls are now just above head height. Whenever they have money they build a bit more. The passionate speech from the minister at a very different church where they are working with addicts for money to purchase land to expand their building as they cannot accommodate all the people who come on Sunday. The reflective meeting with another PCC as they asked us to pass on our thanks to missionaries, especially the Church Missionary Society, for bringing them the Gospel of Jesus and as they reflected sensitively, but probingly, on the problems of the Church of England. As we travelled through the suburbs the mother who pointed me out to her child and said in Ibo white man. I have never thought of that as being a distinguishing characteristic! And finally the church where we were late arriving and found that the electricity had failed and the choir was singing in the dark. Our surprise when the electricity came back and we found that such a strong beautiful, powerful sound came from only fifteen people....

And that is only the briefest of summaries of the first day.

So much to share, so much to inspire.

My prayer is that over the next few months that you will find inspiration and hope from the story of our fellow Christians in Nigeria as they have found encouragement from you. But that is yet another story....

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

### May St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Rogation	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ascension 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity Sunday	10.30 a.m.	The Lord is here
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

### St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Rogation	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ascension 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

### Discussion Groups

Prayers in the Bible – No meeting at 10 Nuthurst Crescent this month.

Fellowship Group – Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 7 p.m. in St John's Church Hall.

### From the Registers

The confirmation of Michael Wilson took place at the Service of First Light on Easter morning at 5.30am at Coventry Cathedral. It is a hugely dramatic and very powerful service and I am pleased that Michael along with three candidates from Arley was confirmed at this very special service.

On March 23 the wedding took place at St. Laurence's Church of Colin Raymond Vater and Danielle Louise Wilkins. Ven. John Green a good friend and neighbour of Colin and Danielle took the service and Peter Allan assisted. It was a joyful lively celebration for everyone.

On March 24 the baptism took place of Alex-James Critchlow. We celebrated Alex's birth and the first nine months of his life and we welcomed him into the family of the Church. It was a delightful occasion. What made it even more special was that eight days later his mother Helen and auntie Sarah were themselves to be baptised and confirmed at Coventry Cathedral.

The interment of the ashes of Daisy Toon took place at St. Laurence's Churchyard on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

The interment of the ashes of Ronald Wood took place at St. Laurence's Churchyard on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

### Ascension Day

Members from St Wilfred's, St Michael's, St Laurence's and St John's churches are warmly invited to join the Wesleyan Chapel congregation at Old Arley for a service at 7.30p.m. on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May.



### Easter report

The church looked beautiful, although the adverse weather meant flowers were more difficult to source than usual. Thank you to all who gave towards the flowers and to those who did the decorating. Palm crosses were distributed and a short time of reflection held before the services on Easter Day because the weather had been so bad on Palm Sunday. The joyful services of celebration then followed.

### Gift Aid

You will be pleased to learn that the PCC have been able to claim Gift Aid on a total of £16,641 which has resulted in a return of the tax paid to the church by Revenue & Customs of £4160.25 in the tax year just ended.

This sum has been apportioned to the different accounts as follows

The General Account £3442.49

St. John's £54.01

Fabric Fund £ £536.25

Church Yard Fund £127.50

As you can see these are considerable figures that really help the church to function.

The PCC are very grateful to everyone who uses Gift Aid.

We are aware that not everyone pays tax on some of their income, but if you do it would be very helpful if you could give to the church using Gift Aid. This method adds 25% to the sum received.

The Government are changing the rules slightly this current year to help charities. This will enable us to claim additional tax relief on cash donations. It really does help church finances if you can make use of one of the many ways of giving by Gift Aid. If at any time you wish to know more about Gift Aid, please do have a word with one of the wardens.

### Plant Sale

This will take place in Ansley Village Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> May 10a.m. to 3p.m. and on 18<sup>th</sup> May 10 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be a choice of bedding and trailing plants for borders or hanging baskets plus a range of other plants. Ansley Village Allotment Association will be selling vegetable plants. There will be good advice on hand and a chance to sit down with a cup of tea for a chat.

### St John's Diamond Coronation Buffet

On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May there will be a buffet at St John's Hall to celebrate 60 years since the Queen's coronation. The buffet will have a 1950's fancy dress theme and a fun time is anticipated. The event will begin at 7p.m. and tickets will cost £1. Please bring your own drink. There will be a raffle and proceeds will go towards hall funds.

### Art Exhibition advance notice

Ansley Village Art Group will be holding an exhibition and sale of their work in St Laurence Church on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> June. The exhibition will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm and light refreshments will be available in the Annexe. Entry is free.

### The Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April, it was at this meeting that the new electoral roll becoming effective.

The accounts for 2012 presented, which show that in the year things were very tight, but although there was a reduction of funds in the general account, the overall position has been contained due mainly to the appeal of last autumn.

The reports reflected the hard work carried out in the parish during the last year.

Election results – there were no changes but the names are listed for your information.

D. Smith, M. Kimberley, S. Pearson and T. Askew to serve for a further three years. M. Freestone as churchwarden, secretary and lay chair. M. Antill as churchwarden and treasurer. M. Oliver and D Kealey to continue to assist as deputy wardens. S. Pearson was re-elected minute secretary. D. Kealey was re-elected electoral roll officer.

Thanks were given to everyone on the PCC for their commitment and work throughout the year for the benefit of the church. These thanks were also extended to the many other people who do work in the parish in so many different ways to extend the work of God in Ansley.

### Quiz night Report

This was a very enjoyable event. Sue Ricketts' questions provided a good challenge for the quiz teams. With the proceeds from the raffle, £200 was raised to support Emma Ricketts in her ambition to canoe for Great Britain at the next Olympics. We would like to thank everyone who helped with organising the evening and all who came to support this worthwhile cause.

### Lent Appeal Report

This appeal raised £26 from St John's and £135 from St Laurence's churches. The money will be used to help towards the cost of a replacement vehicle for Bishop Josiah's work in Kaduna, Nigeria.

### St John's Easter Bonnet Social

This social evening was well attended and provided much enjoyment. £100 was raised for St John's Hall funds.

### Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence and St. John's please hand the slip below to a member of the church congregation or contact the Vicar on 024 7639 9070. Please remember the vicar would be pleased to visit anyone who is sick, but he does need to know, again please ring.

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Please pray for .....who is .....

May , 2013

Well, we waited through the long, cold, snowy winter, always wondering if ever Spring would arrive. There were even rumours of another ice-age amidst all the other theories about global warming. Then in the middle of April lo and behold Spring arrived with warm sunshine and a few April showers. We saw our first lambs in the field near Mancetter and they were lying sunbathing – it was a sight to behold. The Daffodils and Primroses at last could bloom and we said goodbye to winter, we hope!

I was looking at the adverts in a 1966 magazine and it was amazing how well the villages were catered for with numerous shops. Apart from the Post Office which sold everything including knitting wool, there were also two general grocery stores in Ansley Village and Powells who sold everything for home decorating had Agents in Ansley Village, Old Arley and New Arley. No B & Q in those days but DIY on your doorstep. Ansley Common and Birchley Heath also had their own Grocery shops.

Did you know that the English Dictionary cannot really be called 'English' as it contains about 40% of words originally from other languages. If you look up a word then you will see that there is what it means but also where the word comes from e.g. Shampoo is from Hindi and is a kind of head massage; Bungalow is from Bengal and is a type of house; Khaki used in British Army uniforms is from Hindi and means dusty; Dollar is named after a valley in Germany where the first silver was found. So looking at just a few of these words from other languages we see that they roughly have the same meaning in English.

We, at St. John's, are hoping to have a Summer Fete on July 13<sup>th</sup> and with this in mind it reminded me of the numerous Fetes I have attended in the past. When the Vicarage was by the Church they included 'Bowling for a Chicken Dinner', and I, who can't bowl for toffee, won this and it was a good sized chicken with vegetables, stuffing etc. In those days they had some wonderful ideas for stalls, so if anyone has any ideas to make our Fete more interesting and pleasurable for young and old, please let us know

The Starling is not loved by all, but hours of pleasure he can give to all.

We watch him as twigs for his nest he collects.

He works so hard, so much he collects, about as much as for an Eagle's nest.

He doesn't notice other birds around as he is on a mission his chicks' home to found.

Marie Cove.